

Client:

Grosvenor

Project:

Eaton Square Garden Review

Date:

27.02.2009



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A Recommended Species List

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Landscape Agency has been commissioned by Grosvenor and the Garden Committee to undertake a review of the condition of the gardens at Eaton Square, London SW1.

A Management Plan for Eaton Square Gardens had previously been prepared by the Landscape Agency in 2002.

The aim of the review has been to assess the condition of the gardens since the Management Plan was prepared in 2002 and to provide a working document which will allow the gardens to continue as an important amenity asset for the residents of Eaton Square and at the same time retain the elements which are historically important to the development of the London Squares.

Garden based recommendations for the resolution of the issues outlined above, changes in planting or layout or for the future management of the garden are outlined on our drawing no. 354-D-002 Rev A Eaton Square – Garden Review.

The garden review was undertaken by John Sales and Sarah Cotter Craig on the 29th January 2009 accompanied by Stephen Smith, Landscape Manager of the London Estate, Christopher Anderson and Maria Precedo Charge Gardeners of the Eaton Square Gardens.

Eaton Square Gardens consist of six separate gardens, located in the centre of Belgravia. The gardens are bisected by the Kings Road into 3 north gardens and 3 south gardens.

The two central gardens are the larger gardens, with south central garden being used for summer events.

The north east and south west gardens are mainly used by dog walkers.

The gardens are maintained in an excellent condition by the garden staff and it is recommended that this standard of maintenance is continued as it adds considerably to the value of the gardens as an amenity asset to the residents.

2.0 SIGNIFICANCE

2.1 The prime purpose of the six gardens has always been to afford the pleasure of seeing green spaces from the houses and the opportunity of access to secure and semi-private areas outdoors. At their best they offer a series of well-designed and well-tended gardens with all the refreshment, repose, recreation, enjoyment, relaxation and seclusion that they can provide. They are no doubt important in providing habitat, shelter and food sources for wildlife.

Although they suffered severely during the Second World War, the continuity of their historic layout and function has been unbroken for more than a century and a half. Many of the original trees remain to dominate the character of the gardens and together with the persistence of the essentials of the original design, express a strong sense of unity.

The gardens of Eaton Square are greatly significant as part of the historic development of London squares through the 19th century and play an indispensable role in the character of the cityscape. Understandably and rightly they have continued to respond to the changing needs of the residents and to acquire significant features, not always beneficial, which have become part of their history.

On a more practical level the Square is important for providing play spaces for children and places for exercising dogs. As well as providing for active recreation the gardens are doubly important for the opportunity for informal social contact they offer residents and for the chance to experience a continuing creative process.

3.0 LIST OF ACHIEVEMENTS

3.1 Since the preparation of the Management Plan for Eaton Square 7 years ago;

- The replanting of the three North gardens has been very successful and all the gardens have matured well.
- The annual mulching of the shrub beds have led to a great improvement in the soil conditions, which is reflected in the appearance of the plants.
- The planting in the borders adjacent to the Kings Road now act as a very effective screen with one or two exceptions.
- The maintenance standards have improved which reflects in the appearance of the gardens and the gardens look considerably better than they did in 2002.
- The gardens are being conserved in a very positive way.
- The addition of the Potager in the South East garden is an exciting addition to the gardens.
- The path surface in the North West garden has recently been resurfaced with Coxwell gravel unifying the surface treatment with North East, South West and East gardens.

4.0 PRINCIPLES AND AIMS OF MANAGEMENT

4.1 While retaining their historic structure and fabric and conserving and renewing their iconic plants, the gardens should continue to respond as far as possible to the varying needs of residents, changing in ways that are compatible with their evolved character. Change, development and enrichment should be gradual and reversible and should avoid indelible features that clash with the traditional layout and planting.

The main aims of management should be to minimise the cost of upkeep while presenting gardens that provide relative privacy and variety. They should be fresh, tidy, interesting and colourful, especially in spring and early summer and to a lesser degree in late summer and autumn. Within the six gardens there is scope for developing the special character of each space to provide a series of different experiences and values, favouring respectively colour, fragrance, activity, wildlife, dogs, ornament, repose, etc.

The gardens should continue to provide appropriately attractive views from the terraces and contribute to the local cityscape; also to give enjoyment to the public when passing and occasionally when the gardens are open.

Inessential and unsightly elements should be removed, while those that are valued and appreciated should be retained, renewed and improved. So as to make the best use of labour and resources the strategy should be to concentrate labour intensive features where they will be best appreciated. Nevertheless there is scope for developing distinctiveness and for less intensive improvement and enrichment throughout.

As far as possible sustainability should be improved by maximising permanent planting, by timely tree care and renewal, by reducing inputs and outputs and by maintaining and enhancing wildlife habitat, in accordance with recommendations detailed in A Bat Survey of Eaton Square Gardens – October 2008.

The Kings Road is a major traffic route and a continuing aim should be to screen it as far as possible from within the gardens by emphasising mixed evergreens along these boundaries, which should be properly pruned to keep them dense from ground level up to 3-4m.

Recurrent eyesores on the northern side include the clumsy irrigation pipes and we recommend changing to pop up sprinklers.

APPENDIX A

A RECOMMENDED SPECIES LIST

ICONIC PLANTS

The plants listed below form the structural back-bone of the garden.

Platanus x hispanica	London Plane
Laurus nobilis	Bay
Buxus sempervirens	Box
Taxus baccata	Yew (hedges)
Fatsia japonica	
Ilex aquifolium	Holly

GENERAL SPECIES LIST

The plant species included in the list below have been recommended to improve the amenity value of the perimeter borders in the garden but should not be considered an exhaustive list.

Trees and Shrubs

Magnolia wilsonii	
Magnolia x loebneri	
Camellia sp.	
Lonicera sp.	Honeysuckle
Skimmia japonica	
Rosa sp.	Shrub and climbing roses
Viburnum sp.	
Ceratostigma willmottianum	
Cornus kousa	
Daphne sp.	
Kolkwitzia sp.	
Mahonia sp.	
Callicarpa bodinieri	
Berberis sp.	
Catalpa bignonioides	Indian Bean Tree
Gaultheria mucronata	
Hypericum sp.	
Pieris sp.	
Osmanthus sp.	
Eucryphia sp.	
Aralia elata	

Clerodendron trichotomum

Abelia sp.

Herbaceous plants

Athyrium sp.

Ferns

Dahlia sp.

Bergenia sp.

Aster x frikartii

Anemone 'September Charm'

Anemone 'Honorine Jobert'

Crocasmia 'Emily Mackenzie'

Eryngium x zabelii

Fuchsia magellanica 'Versicolor'

Geranium 'Rozanne'

Salvia 'Blue Enigma'

Strobilanthes sp.

Yucca flaccida

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL GARDEN

SOUTH-EAST GARDEN

Ornamental vegetables

Large herbs

Exotic ephemeral fruit plants

Rosmarinus officinalis

Rosemary

Lavandula sp.

Lavender

Artemisia sp.

Wormwood

Myrtus sp.

Myrtle

Salvia officinalis

Sage

Santolina sp.

Cotton Lavender

Vaccinium sp.

Blueberries

Rheum sp

Myrrhis odorata

Originum sp

Oregano

Cynara cardunculus 'Gros Vert de Laon'

Globe Artichoke

Cynara cardunculus

Cardoon

Allium schoenoprasum

Chives

Foeniculum vulgare

Fennel

SOUTH CENTRAL GARDEN

Yucca sp.

Phormium sp.

Cordyline sp.

Musa sp.

Leptospermum sp.

Sophora sp.

Grevillea sp.

Astelia sp

Clivia sp.

Canna sp.

Gazania sp.

Ensete ventricosum

Eucomis sp.

Crocasmia sp.

Dahlia sp.

Watsonia sp.

Strelitza sp.

Zinnia sp.

Rudbeckia sp;

Nicandra sp.

Agapanthus sp.

Nerine sp.

SOUTH WEST GARDEN

Bulbs

Scilla siberica

Scilla 'Spring Beauty'

Scilla italica

Scilla blythinica

Fritillaria meleagris

Chionodoxa luciliae

Glory of the Snow

Cyclamen coum

The Landscape Agency

Crocus tommasinianus	Crocus
Galanthus nivalis	Snowdrop
Anemone blanda mixed	
Anemone nemerosa cv	Wood anemone
Eranthis hiemalis	Winter aconite
Crocus speciosus	Crocus

NORTH WEST GARDEN

Alchemilla sp.	Ladies Mantle
Aster macrophyllus	Aster
Carex sp.	
Cyclamen hederifolium	
Epimedium s.	
Arum italicum	Lords and Ladies
Thalictrum minus	Meadow Rue
Vancouveria sp.	
Cornus canadensis	
Cardamine pratensis	Lady's Smock
Convallaria sp	Lily of the Valley
Corydalis sp.	
Dicentra sp.	Bleeding Heart
Brunnera sp.	
Pulmonaria sp.	Lungwort
Omphalodes sp.	
Lunaria annua 'Alba'	Honesty
Polygonatum sp.	
Saxifraga sp.	
Viola sp.	
Geranium wallichianum cv	
Geranium pyrenaicum cv	
Geranium phaeum cv	
Geranium x oxonianum cv	
Geranium 'Orion'	
Geranium x clarkei cv	
Geranium asphodeloides	

NORTH CENTRAL AND NORTH EAST GARDENS

Cornus kousa cv

Cornus florida cv

Cornus florida x nuttallii cv

Magnolia wilsonii

Magnolia salicifolia

Magnolia x loebneri cv

Magnolia kobus

Ptelea trifoliata

Prunus x yedoensis

Prunus 'Umeniko'

Prunus subhirtella 'Stellata'

Prunus 'Pandora'

Prunus 'Okame'

Prunus 'Accolade'

Malus coronaria 'Charlotte'

Malus tansitoria

Amelanchier sp.

Stryax sp.

SIGNIFICANCE

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Although they suffered severely during the Second World War, the continuity of their historic layout and function has been unbroken for more than a century and a half. Many of the original trees remain to dominate the character of the gardens and together with the persistence of the essentials of the original design, express a strong sense of unity.

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On a more practical level the Square is important for providing play spaces for children and places for exercising dogs. As well as providing for active recreation the gardens are doubly important for the opportunity for informal social contact they offer residents and for the chance to experience a continuing creative process.

PRINCIPLES AND AIMS OF MANAGEMENT

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Recurrent eyesores on the northern side include the clumsy irrigation pipes and we recommend changing to pop up sprinklers.

ICONIC PLANTS

Plants that have an historic association with Eaton Square and should be used to conserve the structure of the garden are;

- London Plane
- Bay
- Box
- Yew (hedges)
- Fatsia
- Holly

EATON SQUARE - LIST OF ACHIEVEMENTS

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NORTH WEST GARDEN

The emphasis on this garden should be one of repose and enclosure. In contrast to the vibrancy of the two central gardens simplicity of planting, cool colours and green foliage should dominate.



Consider replacing benches opposite entrances with an 'eyecatcher' such as sculpture, large or 'alibaba' urn.

Develop the grass into spring meadow with a dense planting of bulbs to include Scilla, Crocus, Fritillaria, Chionodoxa, Cyclamen, Anemone and Galanthus.



NORTH CENTRAL GARDEN

The garden has a very long vista which could be subtly be 'broken up' with informally planted small mainly spring flowering and summer-fruiting trees up to 5m. This would give this garden a completely different character to the other gardens and provide a spring vibrancy to match the summer vibrancy of the South Central Garden. Choice flowering species and cultivars for maximum interest and display could include Cornus kousa, Cornus florida, Magnolia x loebneri cv, Magnolia kobus, Ptelea trifoliata, Prunus 'Umeniko', Prunus 'Accolade' and Malus transitoria.

A future suggested proposal for the lawn would be to utilise the space for an annual sculptured exhibition.

SOUTH WEST GARDEN

This garden is currently used mainly by dog walkers and here the pattern of tall clean stems of the London Planes should be allowed to create the main impact, contrasted against the level lawns. The grass should be developed into a spring flowery meadow, planted densely throughout with an intimate mixture (not 'drifts') of bulbs and corms including Scilla, Crocus, Fritillaria, Chionodoxa, Cyclamen, Anemone and Galanthus.



NORTH EAST GARDEN

It is recommended that the planting in this garden has a greater emphasis on wildlife conservation with a greater diversity of small trees and shrubs for fruits and berries. The garden is currently mainly used by dog walkers.



Proposed Shrub Bed

The proposed shrub bed at the end of the garden will give a point of destination and feeling of enclosure to the users of the garden. Scented and flowering shrubs are to be used within the planting together with flowering herbaceous plants in the foreground.

Remove Ash trees

Recommend Holly is stumped and allowed to regrow to a max. 3m.

Increase small tree planting in the lawn. Specimens to include Magnolia, Cornus and Prunus.

Prune bay trees a third at a time to bring them back into proportion with the garden.

Introduce more deciduous planting to terrace borders.

Prune bay trees a third at a time to bring them back into proportion with the garden.

Increase evergreen planting to screen the Kings Road.

Mixed herbaceous/shrub border.

Three Hollies to be stumped and allowed to regrow to a max. 3m.

Mixed herbaceous and shrub planting. Increase exotic planting in this area.

Annual bedding display using bold, colourful exotic plants 'overflowing' from the raised planters.

Pergola to be restored.

Tennis pavilion.

SOUTH CENTRAL GARDEN

The aim in this garden should be towards strong colours, bold foliage and heady fragrances. The planting in the perimeter and central border already contains some large and exotic plants, which work extremely well and consideration should be given to developing this theme in the garden, using Australasian, South African and South American plants carefully selected for maximum sub-tropical impact from flowers and foliage. This will provide a very exotic flavour to the garden and a vibrant back drop for summer events.

The formal beds in the centre of the garden should be planted with large and exotic tender plants 'overflowing' onto the pathways, with exotic plants such as banana plants, in big containers around the fountain pool.



Proposed area for secure tool shed. The tool shed needs to be low enough to allow views through to the Church.

Replace irrigation system with more discreet system.

Ruscus edging

Bench with Hornbeam backdrop. Replace Hornbeam with Yew planted in curve as in South East garden. Use fragrant small shrubs and herbaceous planting to the sides and rear of the bench.

SOUTH EAST GARDEN

The aim in this garden is one of anticipation and experimentation for the users of the garden. The newly introduced annual beds in the centre of the lawns should provide a sense of excitement to the garden with ever-changing summer and winter displays of ornamental vegetables, large herbs, and exotic ephemeral fruit plants.

To extend the interest beyond the central beds ornamental and fragrant small shrubs, perennials and herbs could be added to the perimeter borders, and in particular around and behind benches.



PERIMETER SHRUB BORDERS EATON SQUARE

Retain a dense evergreen screen 80% evergreen to help with diffusing noise, dust and pollution from Kings Road.

The perimeter borders in the north gardens were all replanted 5 years ago and the shrubs have reached the size at which they should be retained. A pruning regime should be introduced to these 3 gardens to ensure the plants do not become overgrown and leggy.

Retain the current mix of 30-40% evergreen to deciduous plants within borders facing the terrace to allow views into the garden.

Maintain current excellent maintenance regime in the gardens.

A mix of shrubs, bulbs and ground cover plants should be used in border to provide year round interest, colour and scent.

Increase bulb planting in the perimeter borders of gardens.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS EATON SQUARE

ENTRANCES TO GARDENS

The box edging at the entrance to the six gardens provides a sense of unity to the gardens. Small evergreen shrubs to be planted at entrance behind the hedge, interspersed with spring bulbs.

Consideration should be given to resurfacing the entrances to the gardens with Yorkstone paving to strengthen the relationship between gardens and the Square as proposed in Places for People - Public Realm Strategy for Mayfair and Belgravia.

TREES

General principles regarding trees:-

- The crowns of the larger trees should be kept raised to let light through and under.
- There should be a presumption against the planting of small - medium trees on the perimeter to retain views into the garden.

PATHS

Renew the path surfaces in North East, South East and South West Gardens and top dress with Coxwell gravel.

GREEN RECYCLING

Improve screening to green recycling areas.

WILDLIFE

Introduce bird and bat nesting boxes to the gardens and if the Squares residents could be encouraged to become involved some cat and squirrel proof bird feeders. Nesting boxes for birds and bats as well as cat and squirrel proof bird feeders could be introduced, especially if the Square's residents could be encouraged to take an interest in replenishing the feeders.



KEY

- Grass
- Potager
- Herbaceous bed
- Bulb planting
- Dense shrub borders
- Deciduous shrub borders
- Broadleaf tree
- Gravel planting
- Coxwell gravel paths
- Paved area
- Green Recycling Area
- Tennis pavilion
- Shed
- Box hedging
- Yew hedging
- Tennis court
- Entrance gates
- Benches
- Fountain

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REVISIONS

Rev:	Date:	Description:
A	26.02.09	Amendments made following meeting with client.

PROJECT INFO

Project: Belgravia Gardens

Title: Eaton Square - Garden Review

Client: Grosvenor Estate

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Scale: 1:750

Date: 19.02.09

Drawn: CS

Checked: SCC

Figure No: -



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